GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4382
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2007
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS
Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Pakistan is planning to go to World Trade Organisation(WTO) in regard to patenting of basmati rice under the Intellectual Property Rights;

(b) if so, whether the Pakistan has negotiated with European Union market to register basmati rice under the Joint Geographical Indicator(JGI); and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

a) to c): Yes, Sir. As per the Pakistan media reports available with us, Pakistan is planning to go to WTO over the issue. However, they have not yet succeeded to register Super Basmati rice with the European Market. This Department has constituted a Joint Study Group for discussion with Pakistan on Joint Registration of Basmati Rice as a Geographical Indication for mutual benefit of both the Countries.